



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

September 30, 2024

National School Lunch Week (NSLW)

#NSLW24 will be celebrated October 14-18, 2024.

Ahoy! **National School Lunch Week** (NSLW24) is just around the corner with this year's theme, "School Lunch Pirates: Find Your Treasure!" It's time to set sail on an unforgettable celebration! Don't worry about navigating the planning process alone—SNA has all the resources you need to make NSLW24 a smashing success filled with fun, adventure, and delicious school meals!



Farm to School

October is Missouri Farm to School Month

Bite into Missouri local products any day in October!

The Missouri Crunch Off is organized by the Missouri Farm to School Team to celebrate National Farm to School Month. The **Missouri Crunch website** has excellent resources to help plan a fun and engaging event.

Incase you missed the Missouri Crunch Off Podcast- **[you can watch it here!](#)**

Farm to School Education Opportunity

The Pre-conference Session takes place on Friday November 1, at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson. 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Presented by Barbara Shaw, DESE Food/Nutrition, Lisa Lauer, Dept. of Health & Senior Services, Emma Hohenberger, Mo Beef Kids and Lori Danella, Director Lee's Summit R7 Schools.

Join us to learn, celebrate, and inspire the movement to bring healthy, local, sustainably grown food to the minds and plates of our students in Missouri. In this session, you will learn about procurement for local foods, how to get started, learn best practices and leave with action items to start your own program. You will hear from Mo Beef Kids whose mission is to provide more beef in school lunch programs while educating students about farm families and how beef is a nutrition powerhouse for student's bodies. Information will be provided on local grant opportunities, procurement examples, recipes for local foods, a list of farmers interested in partnering with schools, crediting local beef, etc. The highlight of the session will be a Tour of the College of the Ozarks with lunch provided during the tour. *"Hard Work U"* as the College is known provides dining experiences with work done by students and products grown on campus. Their farm to table dining experience is like no other. **Key Area: 1 --Nutrition 1130**

DESE Food and Nutrition Services is awarding scholarships, each in the amount of \$500. This scholarship provides financial assistance to help cover conference expenses and attend an exclusive Farm to School (F2S) education opportunity on November 1, 2024, at the Missouri School Nutrition Association (MSNA) pre-conference. The scholarship funds will be awarded to School Food Service Professionals planning to attend and interested in gaining knowledge about participating in F2S. With the awarded funds, the attendee must register and participate in the pre-conference session ***Field of Dreams Farm2School: Build it and they will come. One small step at a time.*** Scholarship funds will be distributed, *first*, to those who are **new** MSNA members or **first-time** MSNA conference attendees and have an interest in learning more about Farm to School.

A one-time payment of \$500 will be processed to the non-profit food service account. The funds can be used to cover MSNA conference expenses only which include pre-conference and conference registration, lodging, meals and travel. **[Apply here!](#)**

Local Food for Schools (LFS) Grant

Funding is still available for the LFS Grant during the 2024-2025 school year. See the flyer below for additional information.

Are you looking for funds to
purchase local foods?



Bring Local Food to YOUR School!

What to Know:

- More than 38,000 schools nationwide are bringing local food to their students, otherwise known as Farm to School.
- Students are more likely to eat their fruits and vegetables and to try new, healthy food with Farm to School programs.
- Farm to School programs have a positive impact on the local economy and a win-win for school communities.

How to Apply:

Scan the QR code to get started!

1. Review the training recording.
2. Complete the request for applications.
3. Submit written plan describing how you will spend the funds.



MO DESE Food & Nutrition Services
foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov

Important School Nutrition Requirements and Resources

4-Day Schools- When School's Out: Child Nutrition Options for Kids

This resource is for the schools that have moved to a four-day school week and want to provide meals on the fifth day, opportunities using the CACFP at-risk option by offering homework/enrichment programming at the school on the fifth/non-school day of the week is available.

Unpaid Meal Charges

Unpaid meal debt is one of the most common problems within school nutrition and it's one that can often times be difficult to deal with. It is important to have strategies in place.

Managing the Problem of Meal Debt takes a dive into several methods of tackling the meal debt challenge in the way that makes the most sense for your district, including reviewing your meal charge policy (or enacting one), encouraging eligible families to

submit meal benefit applications and more. Here are some additional guidance and resources on the USDA page regarding **Unpaid Meal Charges**.

New CICN Culinary Resources and Trainings

Team Nutrition, in partnership with the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN), is excited to present **new resources and trainings**! The CICN is the division of the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) that provides school nutrition professionals with in-depth, hands-on culinary training and resources that are foundational for scratch-based cooking and the creation of culinary-inspired school meals that are healthy, flavorful, and student-approved!

Meal Talk Webinar Series

This **interactive webinar series** from USDA, FNS highlights resources and materials that address hot topics in school meals. FNS regional offices, state agencies, school food authorities (SFAs) and others who may be interested are invited to participate.

Reimbursement Rates

Reimbursement rates were published in July and are effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Reminders and Important Information

Verification Information

Provided is a link to the **Verification information and procedures** for the 2024-2025 school year. Please make sure to check the list of **LEAs required to complete the Standard Sample Method** prior to selecting applications for Verification.

As a reminder, the verification sample size is determined on October 1.

Additional Verification Resources:

- **Verification Step-by-step Summary**
- Recorded Verification Trainings are available on our **Trainings** page.
- **USDA Verification Toolkit**

Administrative Reviews

The Administrative Review list is now posted on the DESE FNS website – **Administrative State Agency Reviews**. In addition to a comprehensive list of schools to be reviewed in the upcoming school year, we have also provided a list of schools that will be receiving a review via CN Resource. If you are on the **2024-2025 Schedule of Administrative Reviews**, you will be receiving an AR in the upcoming school year. If you are also listed on the Reviews to be Conducted by CN Resource, this means that you will be receiving a review from CN Resource, rather than DESE Food and Nutrition Services. Those that are on the **CN Resource list**, please be on the lookout for correspondence from CN Resource as they will be the ones to reach out in regards to your upcoming review.

FY 2024 Equipment Grant Awardees

Award letters were e-mailed to the FY 2024 National School Lunch Program Awardees in early August. You can find the **complete recipient list** on our website.

USDA Foods Update

***Our new Director of Food Distribution is Rick Kenkel.
Welcome to DESE, Food and Nutrition Services!***



Rick Kenkel,

Director of Food Distribution

Rick.Kenkel@dese.mo.gov

573-522-1974 (after Oct 1st)

573-526-4956 (temporary)



USDA Foods Pre-packet Survey – Coming Soon

Each year our USDA Foods Team sends out a pre-packet survey of commodity direct delivery (brown box) items that could be offered on the USDA Foods Packet. On this survey we ask districts to select the items they would most like to have offered. We tally districts' preferences and those items are included on our USDA Foods Packet. Please watch for the survey and give us your district's feedback– the survey link will be sent to your district's Authorized Representative and survey responses are limited to one per district. The survey will go out in the beginning of October, so please keep an eye out for it.

Cancellations, Delays and Substitutions

While most of our direct delivery foods (brown box) are being delivered as scheduled, we have some products that have been delayed or returned by AMS to be rebid. If there are direct delivery items you requested on your packet, but have not received as scheduled, please consult the **Canceled and Adjusted Direct Delivery (Brown Box) Orders**.

Pears, Sliced Canned 100224

A shortfall of sliced, canned pears was reported by USDA for September truckloads. As a result, Missouri will receive 4 truckloads of diced, canned pears 100225 instead of the sliced pears that were ordered. Districts that have requested sliced pears in October, November, December, and January will receive diced rather than sliced, canned pears.

Reduced Fat Sliced American Cheese 100036

We also have a substitution that will take place in December. If your district requested Reduced Fat Sliced American Cheese 100036 in December, you will be receiving Sliced American Cheese 100018 in its place. If you have any questions or concerns about this substitution, please reach out to our team.

Turkey Breast, Sliced – 110554 and 110910

August trucks are scheduled to arrive in October.

Bonus Direct Delivery for 24/25 SY

We are again offering Bonus Direct Delivery (brown box) items that you may select and add to your Gold Star orders. We currently have 12 different products available and are adding more weekly as they arrive.

To request bonus items, log into the **Gold Star website**. On the left panel, click on Advertisements under the USDA Direct Delivery Header. Then request the items and

quantities you would like. Bonus items, once approved, will be added to your Live Inventory, and automatically shipped to your district on your next Gold Star delivery. More information and instructions on this advertisement feature can be found on the USDA Foods website under Gold Star Training Videos – Advertisements <https://youtu.be/FcpbOTCkHAQ>

Please make a note of the quantity available on the original advertisements page before you click the request button, and please don't request more than what is available. If you see items with a zero or negative quantity, they are not actually available. The system currently lets you request items if they are no longer available, and we are working with Gold Star to get it fixed.

Gold Star Deliveries

Please remember to schedule your monthly delivery for your Direct Delivery and Fee For Service items by the Tuesday prior to your delivery week so that you can receive your products in a timely manner! ***Also, please remember that this year, all cheeses – sliced, shredded and sticks- will be automatically shipped to your district in the month requested on your USDA Foods Packet.***

Value Letters

The **SY 23-24 Value Letters** have been posted on our DESE website and an email was sent to your authorized representative informing them that the letter is available. This letter provides the value of all USDA Foods that were delivered to your district during this past school year. This includes Direct Delivery (brown box), DOD Fresh, Fee For Service and Net Off Invoice entitlement. It also includes any bonus entitlement received during the year.

Entitlement Estimation Letters

The Food Distribution Program: Value of Donated Foods from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 is now published in the Federal Register. The calculated per meal rate for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) school year 2024/25 is \$.30 which is an increase from the previous rate of \$.2950 in SY 2023/24.

For the NSLP, the per meal rate (\$.30) PLUS the 12% provision dollars and 20M breakfast dollars combined make the effective 24/25 NSLP rate \$.45. The state of Missouri was able to further increase this rate with the addition of carry over entitlement. Therefore, Missouri has an adjusted per meal effective rate of **\$.56 for SY 24/25**.

USDA Foods Entitlement for SY 24/25 has been calculated using the \$.56 meal rate multiplied by total lunches served for your district in SY 22/23. LEA Entitlement Letters are now available on the USDA Foods website. <https://dese.mo.gov/media/105051/download>

DOD Updates

To ensure a smooth transition this fall, please make sure that your district's contact information is up to date in FFAVORS. If any changes need to be made, please send those to donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov. Each district's account has been loaded with their allocated funds for the 24-25 SY.

Please make sure to receipt your DoD items in FFAVORS
within 5 business days of delivery.

Receipting Items in FFAVORS

Orders

[Place a New Order](#)
[Modify Pending Order](#)
[Edit Receipts](#)
[View all Orders](#)
[Current Fund Balances](#)
[Product News Flashes](#)
[Email Account Specialist](#)

Reports

[Usage Reports](#)
[Budget Balance/Spent](#)
[Catalog](#)
[Organization/POC Listing](#)
[User Listing](#)

My Profile

[My Profile](#)

From the Customer Homepage

Edit Receipts

1

Edit Receipts

[Place a New Order](#)
[Edit Receipts](#)
[View an Order](#)
[Modify Pending Order](#)
[Product News Flashes](#)
[Current Fund Balances](#)
[Email Account Specialist](#)

Within the FFAVORS ordering process

-- OR --

Receipts

Count: 3

Receipts are "Past Due" if not receipted within 7 calendar days of RDD

	CUSTOMER CODE	CUSTOMER NAME	RDD	CALENDAR DAYS PAST RDD	RECEIPT DT	RECEIPTED BY
Edit	YFLK36	HAMILTON ELEMENTARY	2/4/2016	12 Past Due		
Edit	YFLK36	HAMILTON ELEMENTARY	2/9/2016	7		
Edit	YFLK36	HAMILTON ELEMENTARY	2/10/2016	6		

3

Enter the cases received

4

Enter a reason if you didn't receive all ordered cases

Item Code	Description	Case Contents	Case Price	Case Qty	Case Receipt Qty	Receipt Cost	Fund	Reason for Receipt Qty Difference
14144	APPLE CHL SL 200/2 OZ PG	25 LB	\$4.30	30	28	\$129.00	Federal	TOO GREEN/OVER-RIPE
14153	ORANGE 1/2 LB BG	2 LB	\$4.79	10	12	\$47.90	Federal	ACCEPTED OVERDELIVER
14M14	STRAWBERRY 1/1 PT CO	1 LB	\$2.15	10	10	\$21.50	Federal	N/A

Fund Balance for NSLP

	State \$	Federal \$
Starting Balance	\$0.00	\$800.00
Spent, Previous Orders	\$0.00	\$200.51
Cost, This Order	\$0.00	\$198.40
Remaining Balance	\$0.00	\$401.09

[PROCESS Pending Receipt](#)

[Go Back to the List of Receipts](#)

5 Process Pending Receipt


Save the Date

For our commodity expos, we are going to partner with the Heart of America and SFNDA Food shows again this year. The Heart of America show is February 5th at the Kansas City Expo Center, and the SFNDA show will be February 18 at the River City Casino in St. Louis. There will be a reception the evening before each of these events. Registration will be available in November.



HOA Food Show — and — Commodity Expo

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
KC EXPO CENTER
11730 N AMBASSADOR DR.
KANSAS CITY, MO



SFNDA Food Show — and — Commodity Expo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
RIVER CITY CASINO
777 RIVER CITY CASINO BLVD.
ST. LOUIS, MO

RECEPTION THE EVENING BEFORE

Past Newsletters

Missed a past
newsletter or need
to access them
again? You can find
them all on our
Food and Nutrition
Services
Newsletter page!



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